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Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-09 RSC-01

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TAGS: SGEN
SUBJECT: 24TH COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT-UNIFIED
APPROACH AND SOCIAL INDICATORS (ITEMS 11 AND 13)

1. SUMMARY. CSD COMMENCED DISCUSSION OF UNIFIED APPROACH
(ITEM 11) AND SOCIAL INDICATORS (ITEM 13) JAN 16. SPEAKING
WERE UK, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, THAILAND, NIGERIA, ITALY, ECWA,
ESCAP, ECLA, FAO. AS CHAIRMAN ENCOURAGED DEL TO GROUP ITEMSIN
STATEMENT, US PLANS TO MAKE A COMBINED SPEECH ON POPULAR PARTICIPATION,

SOCIAL INDICATORS, AND THE UNIFIED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT.
END SUMMARY.

2. CSD OPENED DEBATE ON TWO ITEMS, UNIFIED APPROACH AND
SOCIAL INDICATORS. MCGRANAHAN, UNRISD DIRECTOR, SPEAKING
ON THE REPORT ON A UNIFIED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS AND
PLANNING (E/5430), HIGHLIGHTED THE MAIN LINES OF THE DOCUMENT.
HE EMPHASIZED THAT DEVELOPMENT OF CONCEPT ANALYSIS AND MODELS
IS MADE COMPLEX BY THE WIDE VARIETIES IN COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT.
PROPOSED SOLUTIONS HAVE DIFFERENT EFFECTS UNDER DIFFERENT
CIRCUMSTANCES. HE URGED FEASIBILITY STUDIES AS INITIAL STEP.
A SECOND COMPLICATING FACTOR IS THE TRAINING OF PLANNERS.
THEIR EXPERTISE IN ONE SPECIFIC AREA MAY DISTORT PERSPECTIVE
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IN ANALYSIS. IN PROJECTING FUTURE WORK PLANS, MCGRANAHAN SAID

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THAT ECA WILL COOPERATE WITH UNRISD IN DEVELOPMENT OF AN OPERATIONAL METHODOLOGY SUITABLE TO AFRICA. UNRISD PLANS PUBLICATION OF PAPERS ON REGIONAL PLANNING AND WILL INITIATE STUDY OF NEW AREAS, E.G., FISCAL PLANNING.

3. DOROTHY WALTERS, CDPPP, REVIEWED REPORT ON SOCIAL INDICATORS, STRESSED THAT QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF NATIONAL DATE ARE MAJOR PROBLEMS. SOCIAL INDICATORS ARE NOT THE TOTAL SOLUTION. DEVELOPMENT OF RELIABLE NATIONAL DATA IS THE ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE. ONLY A FEW COUNTRIES HAD PROGRESSED TO POINT OF REAL USE OF INDICATORS. CHAIRMAN NAQVI URGED COMMISSION TO FOCUS ON NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN TECHNOLOGICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES.

4. UK, AUSTRIA BELGIUM, THAILAND, AND NIGERIA COMMENTED. UK EMPHASIZED NEED FOR BETTER COMMUNICATION BETWEEN POLICY PLANNERS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCHERS. INVOLVEMENT OF USERS IS ESSENTIAL. SUPPORTED USEFULNESS OF SOCIAL INDICATOR FOR NATIONAL PLANNING, DREW ATTENTION TO DIFFERENT WEITHTING GIVEN INDIVIDUAL INDICATORS WHICH CAN BE USE NOW. UK THEN GAVE ILLUSTRATIONS OF UNIFIED APPROACH IN SEVERAL DEVELOPING SOCIETIES. RAISED QUESTIONS RE COST OF IMPLEMENTING UNIFIED APPROACH, NOTING THAT THE GREATER THE SUCCESS OF PLANNING "FROM THE BOTTON UP WITH FULL PARTICIPATION," THE GREATER THE STRAIN UPON EDUCATION AND OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES. URGED FULL ATTENTION TO TRAINING OF MANPOWER NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT UNIFIED APPROACH. AUSTRIA ALSO CITED PROBLEMS OF MANPOWER AND RESEARCH FACILITIES AND EXPRESSED UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHETHER LDC'S SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO UNDERTAKE COMPLICATED COLLECTION OF DATA. BELGIUM COMMENDED DOCUMENT, FAVORED THE MORE EMPIRICAL APPROACH IN FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF UN WORK ON INDICATORS.

5. REPS OF REGIONAL COMMISSIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES INDICATED PROGRESS IN APPLICATION OF UNIFIED APPROACH, REITERATED PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND NOTED NEED FOR STATISTICAL DATA. ESCAP REP, COMMENTING ON THE SYG'S REPORT, EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL VIEWS THAT THE PLANNING AS NOW BEING DONE IS A FAILURE. IT IS BEING DONE BY THE "HARVARD PLANNERS" AND UNLESS THERE IS A NEW GROUP OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNERS, DEVELOPMENT WILL NOT PROCEED IN A MEANINGFUL WAY. HE
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WAS QUITE CRITICAL OF THE UNIFIED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT AND OF WESTERN TRAINED PLANNERS AND STATED THAT THE PLANNING METHOD NOW BEING CARRIED OUT BENEFITS ONLY ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION. ECWA GENERALLY
SUPPORTED UN WORK ON UNIFIED APPROACH AND INCICATORS, REMINDED THE COMMISSION THAT ADAPTIONS ARE NEEDED REGIONALLY. REP OF ICSW SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF UN WORK ON UNIFIED APPROACH AND INDICATORS, CITING NEED FOR MEASUREMENT TOOLS IN VIEW SPREAD

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POVERTY AND MALNUTRITION. ALSO URGED CONSIDERATION OF
SPIRITUAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS IN FURTHER
DEVELOPMENT AND SELECTION OF INDICATORS.
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